

English looking than was, - only the houses are so different - Stone
buildings of every size & shape, - thatched roofs are some pic-
tureque than our square, white houses, I must say, though
the question of comfort I don't consider now - We went through
a fine park to Richard Leigh, a beautiful, modern house, built
by a Mr. Duckworth, a retired lawyer with a large fortune.
The family were in Switzerland, but had left word he were
to see the gardens, the Church having said before, they wanted
to bring us - I think the English country houses both for outside
effect & inside arrangement unrivalled for comfort & beauty.
Both outside & inside help each other, - and this was one of
those houses one reads about, with drawing-rooms & Conserva-
tory opening in, charming with creepers & tall plants planted
in the ground; then the gentleman's morning-room, & dining
room, & billiard room, & waiting room &c. for we went
through the house to get to the conservatory & garden - all
so handsome & luxurious, & yet for use too - The windows
looking out on bits of garden, & an architectural wing or porch
coming in to help effect; the gardens about the house are laid
out in the architectural way so prevalent now, & do come in
well with balustrades & terraces & steps, stripes of brilliant
colour & beds, brilliant masses - Beyond was lovely park &
green slopes with groups & single trees & a pretty little lake &
then a peep of distant view, all making quite an ideal
effect - Mrs. Church says they are delightful people, & very

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New, Sept. 17th '69

My dear Sue,

Went as still at Mr. Darmin's - Sir John
Rutbock, great on fore-historic men, came to ~~the~~ lunch
on Sunday, & very politely asked us to come & pass a few
days with them - Miss Tredjenood, Mrs. Darmin's sister,
whom we saw last autumn, dined with us, & was as
pleasant & sociable as possible, & very much amused with
accounts of our life in the Field, especially with our
Prinival dinner, for there seems a general idea it is a
land of hard fare & dietetical diet! - In the after-
noon as I was showing Mrs. Darmin some of our photos, & such,
a lady on the farther verge of middle age called, a younger
gentleman & lady with her - She was rather dowdy in dress
& awkward in manner, though not unsciable, but very
plain in her way, & certainly nothing of the high bred ease &
gracious courtesy one hears about in English nobility - I was
amused to hear when she was gone that it was Lady Sand-
bury, who has taken Holywood, the late Lord Cranworth's
place, the beautiful park we drove in last autumn - So
I have actually talked a little with a dowager Marchioness -
A nice & pleasant lady now, but the magnificence & beauty &
grace of high rank is, I suppose, very much as it is in other ranks,
very much individual; & it is ~~not~~ in words, my dear friend

girls, that people impress you at once as titted ladies -

We left next morn'g early, the Darwins kindly sending us in their carriage, Henrietta D. going too, & went back to London, taking rail-way across from Paddington for Stone. We reached Whitley Rectory about 4 1/2, & had a most cordial welcome from Mr. Church, whom we thought looking uncommonly well - Mrs. Church was out seeing some old women in the village, so that her time might be free while we should be there - And what a nice 4 days we had, talking & looking over photographs, &c. &c. - They are such delightful people, & live in such a quiet, home like, easy pleasant way - That little parlour, with its cosy easy-chairs, & crowded books every where, & hung with photographs & engravings, & filled with pretty things all having some association! The sunny window looking on the garden, so gay with scarlet geraniums & beds of blue & yellow, tall holyhocks of richest shades lighting up the wry covered walk behind! I could not bear to say good bye when the 4 days were over & think we should not see it again! - They were most cordial in their invitation to Charles & the girls to come to them later; & I hope they won't miss that chance of seeing such a charming English interior -

Tuesday the neighboring squire lent his waggette & coachman to take us a drive - A waggette as far as I can describe, is an inside Irish jaunting car on 4 wheels -

We went to call on a Mr. Paget the County member, Melbury, but he was out. But it gave us a chance to see a pretty park & nice old house in front, & then we drove through extensive grounds & some woods that looked very home-like, to an immensely high tower that Mr. Paget has built in memory of his eldest son, who died young - It is rather a fashion in that part of Somersetshire to build towers as memorials, - We could see 4 or 5 from this one. A curious way & rather useless one would think for it must have cost an enormous sum; but the tower seems likely to be lasting, if the memory is not. It stands in a wood, a little picturesque cottage near, where the keeper lives, & the base of the tower has a little house attached containing a room where parties come to picnic! - I did not go to the top, but stopped at the balcony mid-way, & had a fine view there, especially towards Glastonbury & where the British Channel should be seen; but though the day seemed bright & clear, there was a haze upon the horizon, & no sparkle of water to see - Dr. Gray & Mr. Church saw the city of Bath from the top. Mr. Horner (Jack Horner's descendant, as I wrote you a year ago) dined with us, & Mrs. Horner & a son & daughter, all very nice & pleasant - The next day the Squire lent his carriage again, & we drove over the pretty rolling hills, & seeing smelling valleys & groves & dotted trees that made us think of Breida County near August - I always said how

Squire's home in the little village of Dale - A nice, old-fashioned, comfortable house, trim & spruce, with pretty lawn & trees & flowerbeds in front, & formal fruit & vegetable garden behind - We had a cordial welcome from Dr. Prior, who stayed with us years ago in Cambridge when Dr. Alexander, & found him after all but little changed. Softened a little in outline, & the grey hair not so conspicuous when hair & whiskers were always so light. He was a most attentive & courteous host, let me go to my room & rest while he went off to a croquet party, to which a neighboring clergyman & his wife had come, & they afterwards came back to dinner, merrily & jolly people, & the husband with an inexhaustible amount of quotations. There came also to dinner Mr. & Mrs. Hancock & a young lady staying with them, he one of the great gentlemen farmers, & Dr. Gray went over the farm next morn. Some hours work, & saw the high scientific manner of doing everything, & heard about cottagers & labourers, &c. - We had a wonderfully exquisitely cooked & served dinner, with the own man as butler, & two others helping wait. Everything was in bachelor nicety & precision, & at breakfast & lunch next day, after which we were off again in Dr. Prior's carriage, & a coachman, & own man to take care of us to Wellington, & take r.t. to Torquay - As we rolled along between high hedges, lanes or deep the sides were above the carriage, & all covered with a tangled mass of pretty wild thorns, I thought if one were only born & bred to it, & so

hospitable & cordial. - On our way back we went to Melts, Mr. Horner's village, to see a village flower show, held in one of his great stone barns, cleared out for the occasion, & where the prizes are contended for by cottagers, though other neighbours may display - It was fairly dressed with flags, & the vegetables were very fine - The Landseer flowers were displayed by Mr. Horner's gardener, but I think the best potatoes, minus, &c. by the cottagers - To my eye I never saw so fine, large, white, thin-skinned potatoes - The Squire, Sir Shaw, a stout, good-natured, country gentleman about 45, & Mr. & Mrs. Fussell & daughter dined with us. The Fussells live near, & his family are owners of the great iron hills not far off - The next day, Thursday, we had a family picnic to Longleaf, the place of the Marquis of Bath - A Mr. Jorch & his daughter went with us - He is a retired clergyman, who has taken a place in the neighborhood for the health of an invalid daughter, for the change of air, & a very tall, handsome, old man, stately & courteous, & kindly & agreeable, with a hearty love of nature, & simplicity of enjoyment & gratitude for all the beautiful things in this world, that made him a very pleasant companion for the long drive; for he took me in his low pony carriage or waggette, the little girls behind us, as it was thought an easier carriage than the hired fly, in which went Mr. & Mrs. Church, Dr. Gray & Fred. Church, Miss Jorch a charming, lively, nice girl as I have seen this

many a day, & Mr. Fock's farm - The driver rode one of the horses, postilion one - Mr. Fock asked if I knew the Tickers, said they stayed with him once - It was a long drive, through pretty country, ~~partly~~ ^{partly} this 'picturesque old Frome, & then' little hamlets of stone cottages, past farm-houses with great barns & sheds surrounding high-walled Yards, & the wheat crop just harvested, one sees such yards of immense wheat-stacks, generally so trimly built & thatched. The last part of the way was through the Parks of Longleat - An enormous area, they say a 10 miles drive, & I can believe it - There were no gates, but the common road led through groves of evergreens, then deciduous trees, then underbrush enclosed by nice netted fences to protect the game - And we saw plenty of pheasants, quite tame they seemed - Then came trees again, & up & down some wild ^{& such immense quantities of} ~~old~~ ^{old} ~~wooded~~ ^{wooded} ~~down~~ ^{down} some wild ^{or} ^{such} ^{immense} ^{quantities} ^{of} ^{old} ^{wooded} ^{down} ^{to} ^{laurel} - ^{it} ^{must} ^{be} ^{floriss} ⁱⁿ ^{June}! ^{At} ^{last} ^{it} ^{is} ^{freed} ^{to} ^{older} ^{trees} [&] ^{more} ^{cleared} ^{underneath}, & a pretty little lake by which was a boat house - Then "the family are not down", people may picnic in the house, but now all the Country seats are inhabited, for the 1st. of Sept. is a famous time, when partridge shooting begins - So we drove on farther to an open space & there got out of the Carriage (the Ladies were sent back to the boat-house), & a cloth was spread & an abundant lunch displayed - I think we all did full justice - Mr. Church washed dishes in the Lake, the little girls helped wipe, & danced attendance, & Dr. Gray ran hither & thither, &

I was put on carriage cushions to rest - Then when we had finished & packed away, we walked off a little way to leave the men & hunch, & sat by the pond & talked, while the young people strayed off into the woods - Mr. Church bears a whistle, & so do each of the little girls, of charcoal horn, & when he wants to summon them, he whistles & they respond - We took a different route home, through the Home park, entering by a gate, getting out & walking a little way we could look from a hill, a steep brow, ^{"Heaven's Gate" it is called,} over the lovely lawn, the clumps of graceful trees, the kitchen garden & forcing-houses below us, & at the bottom, in a green, wooded plain, the old house, an enormous pile of the time of Queen Elizabeth & a little later, but all of one design & construction, the so-called flower-garden at one side - Beyond stretched a fine view of Country - Then we drove quite close to the house & could see the ladies as gay in the garden as the brilliant beds of flowers -

The next morning to our sorrow, we had to say good-bye - Had we only known how long Charles & the girls would stay in France, we might have had little longer visits - We drove into Frome, Mrs. Church joining with us, for she was expecting her sister's children to be left in her care for awhile - Then by sundry rail way changes to Taunton - There we found Dr. Prior's own man, & nice carriage & horses waiting for us, & so drove 7 miles to Halae House, the

could forget the fearful differences of high & low, the immense contrasts in health & comfort, or feel, as you see good, faithful people do, they are heaven-ordained & immutable differences, that after all I could imagine no life pleasanter than this English country life on nice estates, a house-keeper to take the care off me. (what a jewel of a maid Dr. Prior had!) & everything so running in its accustomed tracks, duties such as one seeks, & life rolling so easily with time at one's control & one's charities self-evident, one could feel useful & yet not over-worked, & could take leisure without feeling idle, & not be perplexed as to where one's work should lie. It is very fascinating this country life as one sees it; & it is a so much more leisurely life than ours!

But the present hopelessness of the lower classes in England, ^{& ambitious} hopeless in themselves, as well as the indifference of others, make me restless & unhappy, true born American that I am, & longing in the wide-spread chance for all, & the hope that may be birthright to everyone of us —

One thing strikes me, how much horses & carriages are helped by drags in England; a break or a shoe, or something of the kind to almost every private carriage, & they use them down hills, such as we trot down mercilessly at home. It must save both carriage & horses —

The rail-road ride was pretty to Torquay, close to the sea shore in some places, quite on the beach at Dawlish, with

high, deep red bluffs, that were sometimes tumbled through
Torquay itself, instead of nestling in a valley as somehow I
had fancied, is built on high, rocky hills, & the roads wind
round them, so that one house looks on the roof of another.
The shore is picturesque, with red rock & green turf above,
this unfortunately it was not green ~~then~~ for they had been
suffering from unprecedented drought for months! - It was
very pleasant to see dear Mrs. Lombe again, she is our old
friend, Bessie Hooker, & she was cheerful & bright, though a most
suffering invalid - Dr. Lombe is one of the heartiest of good-
natured men - Mr. Edgeroth took tea with us Sunday Evg -
Monday morn. Dr. Gray was up early off alone for an excursion
^{to Totnes &}
down the Dart to Dartmouth, one of the most unchanged
old towns in England, with a queer church with carved pulpit,
& old timber & plastered houses - The sail he said was pretty,
with beautiful wood on the river bank, & the castles at the
mouth quite grand - I stayed quietly, as I had been having
a bad cold all the week & felt rather dull - At dinner
that day we had the 3 Miss Munroes, Gen. Munroe's sisters.
Fanny stayed with us 10 years ago - She was wonderfully little
changed & they were fresh from three months in Switzerland
land, & were uncommonly pleasant, agreeable women -
Dr. Lombe was engaged all day as umpire in a grand Croquet
tournament going on at Torquay - So I close for Sept. 6th.
or Sept. 10th. with love to you all from your affc. Jane -